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December 10th, 1794

Letter from John Newton to John Campbell, December 10, 1794

John Newton

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John Campbell

Copied

London Ten Decr 94



Mr John Campbell
Grass Market

Chesham House Edw



My dear Sir,

This half sheet I send chiefly as a cover to the letters you enclosed. I am sorry if my little note gave you uneasiness. My principal ^{view} was to make an apology for ~~my~~ Brother, in case, you should hear through him more distant & reserved than he ought to be after the kind offices you had shewn him. I can have no objection to your seeking to an explanation with him, it is what I rather wish for.

You did well to vindicate & clear yourself from an unjust imputation. I was satisfied in my own mind that it was groundless & so I told my brother. For the rest, when we have disproved the slander (where it is worth while, for many an best neglected) we have no reason to be much grieved, if the world speaks any or ~~all~~ manner of evil of us, provided it ~~be~~ be falsely, & especially if it be on account of our Christian profession, rather we may rejoice, for so they treat the prophets & apostles that were before us, yea our Lord himself. Jer. 37. 14. Acts 24. 5. Luke 23. 5. We may apply Peters words 1 Pet 2. 20. I think with you, that considering what a world we live in, the preservation of our characters, is no less an evidence of the Lords providential care over us, than the preservation of our persons from the many harms to which we are daily exposed.

Mr Watts letter, is, as you say, a curiosity, I hope it is the only one of the kind, that I shall have occasion to see. However if the event of his last misconduct, was sanctified to bring his heart back to the Lord, it is well with him now. I think we have warrant to hope that his faith & repentance were sincere. If we have not all deserved to be hanged for breaking human laws, we have all deserved much worse as transgressors of the law of our Nature. The way to heaven sometimes lies by the gallows, & I fear the path from a bed of state much more frequently tends down wards. For my own part, if my pocket was full of stones, I have no right to throw one at the greatest Backslider upon earth. I have either done as bad or worse than he, or I certainly should, if the Lord had left me a little to myself. For I am made of just the same material, if there be any difference, it is wholly of grace.

I pray the Lord to bless you in all things,

I am your affectionate
John Newton

N^o 6. 10 Dec^r 94.